

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-22, 24 and 25 are pending. New claim 25 is supported as is claim 1.

I. Claim 23

Applicants take this opportunity to correct an inadvertent error in presenting claim 23 in the Amendment of September 28, 2001. As the original specification contained a claim 23, the claim 23 added in the Amendment of September 28, 2001 should have been claim 24, not claim 24. Thus, the claim has been renumbered.

I. 35 USC § 112

The Office Action objects to or rejects claims 1-7 and 23 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim that which is considered the invention. Although not expressly indicated, Applicants assume the Office Action intended to include claims 9-22 along with claims 1-7 and 23 in this particular rejection.

Initially, Applicants respectfully present that the present claims have been amended to clarify the allegedly confusing definition. Specifically, Applicants have removed the term "material", in favor of the term "component" to specify that the multi-functional "component" be a single compound or molecule having a functionality of at least three.

Again, Applicants respectfully present that the present specification makes clear this distinction. Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to, for example, page 3, fourth paragraph, where it is stated the "multi-functional materials have a functionality of at least three", and page 4, second paragraph, "the multi-functional material comprises one or more materials which have three or more functional acrylate groups." Further, page 8, second paragraph states, "Functional groups are acrylate groups with C=C double bonds", and "If functionality is expressed as a number, the number indicates the number of C=C double bonds available to react, present in acrylate groups."

Page 8, second and third paragraphs utilize the word "element" in place of "material". However, Applicants respectfully present that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand that the word "element" was not used to mean the various elements of the Periodic

Table. In fact, one of ordinary skill would certainly interpret the word "element" to mean the material discussed earlier. This is confirmed on page 8, third paragraph, which states, "The radiation curable elements are preferably of low viscosity and can be considered to be reactive diluents, whereas it is stated on page 3, last paragraph, "the multi-functional material comprises one or more reactive diluents."

In the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9, examples of multi-functional radiation curable reactive diluents are given, each having at least three acrylate groups.

Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would see that the coating composition recited by the present claims in light of the present specification, comprises a reactive part, and optionally a filler, i.e., a non-reactive part. The reactive part comprises 10-100% multi-functional material. In other words, at least 30% of the reactive part is a multi-functional material and that all of the reactive part may consist of a multi-functional material, i.e., constituents where each molecule has at least three reactive acrylate groups.

The reactive part may further comprise a pre-polymer. According to page 10, first paragraph, the "pre-polymer is a reactive material of relatively high viscosity. ... The functionality of these materials is normally 2 or 3 but can be up to 6." Thus, when the functionality is only 2, the pre-polymer is not part of the multi-functional material. When the functionality is at least 3, the pre-polymer is a part of the multi-functional material.

The Office Action similarly takes issues with the term "at least 30% by weight" of claim 1. Applicants respectfully present that the present claims recite a reactive part, and a non-reactive part. The reactive part is described as having at least 30% multi-functional components. Thus, the reactive part may have anywhere from 30-100% multi-functional components. Thus, while the Office Action is correct that the claim is not limited to at least 30% multi-functional components in the coating composition, the reactive part of the composition is so limited. Thus, the Office Action is correct that the coating composition comprises an unknown amount of reactive part, which comprises at least 30% multi-functional components. However, although the claims do not specify the particular percentages of reactive and non-reactive parts of the coating composition, the claims do specify that the reactive parts of the composition must include at least 30% multi-functional material. As the non-reactive part is merely filler, reactive part of the coating composition is the more important component.

II. 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Moussa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,047,261), alone or in further view of Jonsson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,446,073). However, in view of the amendments and arguments presented above, to clarify the claims as requested by the Examiner in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully present that this particular rejection is now moot. Reconsideration is therefore requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and analysis, it is respectfully submitted the claims now pending in the application comply with all statutory requirements, and are presently in condition for immediate allowance. Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

THE APPLICANT HEREWITH PETITIONS
THE PTO TO EXTEND THE TIME FOR
RESPONSE AS REQUIRED TO MAKE THE
ATTACHED DOCUMENT TIMELY FILED.
PLEASE CHARGE THE COST THEREOF
TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 19-4375

Respectfully submitted,



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